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## A new book analyzes the significance of Prehistory for understanding the human condition in the modern globalized world

Tarragona, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 *Human Prehistory. Exploring the Past to Understand the Future* (Cambridge University Press) is the title of the new book by the archeologist Deborah Barsky, researcher at the IPHES-CERCA and assistant Professor of the UOC and the URV.

	More than 3 million years ago in Africa, our early ancestors began to systematically modify rocks into usable tools, thus inventing the first technologies that eventually permitted humans to dominate all life forms on the planet. In this book, Deborah Barsky offers a long-term evolutionary per- spective on human culture and its relationship with tech- nology. Using scientific information and examples from the global archeological record, she follows the remarkable human journey from the early phases of prehistory and shows how it has led humans to a dangerously uncertain future. Her archeological approach offers a fresh perspec- tive regarding important issues that plague contemporary society, such as racism, the digital revolution, human migrations, terrorism and war. Written in an accessible style, Barsky's book demonstrates how insights into the dis- tant past serve as a tool for undestanding the present and	Barshy HUMAN PREHISTORY Exploring the Past to Understand the Future
•	building a sustainable future for all life on planet Earch. DEBORAH BARSKY is a libric specialist, archeologist and researcher at the Caralan Institute of Human Paleoecology and Social Evolution (IPHES-CERCA) and assistant pro- fessor with the Open University of Catalonia (UOC) in the History and Art History Department at the Rovira i Virgili University (URV) in Tartegona, Spain. Engaged in research projects on archeological sites throughout the world, she has published numerous works in books and scholarly journals.	PREHISTORY Exploring the Past to Understand the Future
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The cover of the new book by Deborah Barsky published by Cambridge University Press is a detail from a painting by the Canadian artist Sacha Barrette from his series of works on the theme: *Homo urbanus* (sachaimages@gmail.com).

In this book, Deborah Barsky offers an overview of human prehistory, based on the idea that understanding the distant past can bring us new perspectives in relation to the current challenges faced by our species, and proposes how this knowledge can be essential to building a more sustainable future for all life on planet Earth. From this point of view, the author tells the fascinating story of human evolution through updated examples from the archeological record and explains the different phases of cultural evolution.

This book provides a unique opportunity to learn about many aspects of multidisciplinary research applied to Prehistory and explains in an accessible way some of the scientific concepts central to understanding the evolutionary pathway followed by our species through time. The researcher, specialist in the study of lithic stone tools, develops a discourse focused on technology as the central factor that defines the genus *Homo* and that distinguishes us from all other life forms.





The book's 288 pages cover a large chronological range, from the first bipedal hominins up to the Metal Ages and beyond, employing concepts developed in Prehistoric Archeology to tackle a number of questions that are central to defining, not only what it means to be human, but also to gain a better understanding of our relationships with one another and with other animals in a globalized world.

As our species enters into the Anthropocene Epoch, Deborah Barsky shows how the long-term vision provided by Prehistoric research is key to truly understand how we came to be who we are. By looking to the past for answers to the many issues plaguing modern society, interesting trends become clearly visible regarding themes such as: climate change, overexploitation of plant and animal resources, pollution,

racism, institutionalized religion, the digital revolution, human migrations, terrorism, and war.

This book establishes Prehistory as a central pillar to link the past to the present, and in doing so, to step into a more sustainable future.

## Reference:

Barsky, D. 2022. Human Prehistory. Exploring the Past to Understand the Future. Cambridge University Press. 288 p.

You have more information about this book at the following link:

https://www.cambridge.org/highereducation/books/humanprehistory/C2BF1C924AB66818450CEC514E2B11BD#overview